

14 December 1956
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MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: TALENT/AQUATONE CLEARANCES

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1. At 1000 hours 13 December Mr. Wesley Reynolds, Mr. Clarence Klumfoot and myself met with Mr. [redacted] office to discuss security measures related to the Project and, specifically, the matter of two (Aquatone/Talent) clearance procedures. Mr. [redacted] outlined the facts that:

A. Aquatone activities and clearance procedures had been in existence for some time prior to the institution of Talent procedures and Talent clearances.

B. People on the project had considered that clearances for Aquatone involved clearances concerning knowledge of flight activity, and that clearance for Talent was concerned solely with clearances for end-product results from the activity. (It was pointed out that NSA personnel would in every conceivable case be at least exposed to knowledge of the activity and that therefore Aquatone and Talent were inseparable. Some distinction could, however, be made between those people who had a need to know engineering details and those who did not.)

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2. Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Klumfoot questioned closely the requirement for an additional review of a person's reliability and suitability in view of the multiple clearances normally required for most of the NSA people. Mr. [redacted] agreed that there was some question about the necessity for yet another clearance procedure and by telephone worked out with appropriate security authorities connected with the project the following arrangements to which the NSA representatives concurred:

A. The TCO/NBA will submit to TCO/CIA a list of positions within NSA which he envisages will require Talent or Aquatone clearances. He will designate within this group those positions which have a need-to-know engineering details connected with the activity and these will be the only ones considered to have a requirement for an Aquatone clearance.

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B. The TCO/CIA will approve, as presently agreed, the list of positions for Talent clearances, and after consultation with Mr. [redacted] will also approve the positions designated for Aquatone clearances.

C. Individuals will then be cleared for Aquatone and Talent by the NSA Security Division in accordance with this list and Talent clearance standards. The names of people so cleared, as at the present time, will be forwarded to TCO/CIA. He will then forward in turn to the Aquatone security people the names of those who have been cleared for Aquatone.